

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. In a client device, a method of operation comprising:  
2 receiving from a remote server a distribution collection of sub-menu items for  
3 a menu item;  
4 determining whether one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution  
5 collection are not part of an operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu  
6 item;  
7 updating the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item; and  
8 changing an operational visual representation of the menu item from a first  
9 state to a second state to convey to a user of the client device that new sub-menu  
10 items have been added to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu  
11 item.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said updating of the operational collection of  
2 sub-menu items of the menu item comprises adding said one or more of the sub-  
3 menu items of said distribution collection that are not part of said operational  
4 collection of sub-menu items of the menu item to the operational collection of sub-  
5 menu items of the menu item.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said first state of the operational visual  
2 representation of the menu item comprises a description of the menu item, and said  
3 changing of the operational visual representation of the menu item from the first  
4 state to the second state comprises changing said operational visual representation  
5 of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item to an operational

6 visual representation of the menu item comprising said description of the menu item  
7 annotated with an indication that one or more sub-menu items have been added to  
8 the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises responsive to  
2 an occurrence of a predetermined condition, changing said operational visual  
3 representation of the menu item from said second state back to said first state.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said predetermined condition comprises a  
2 user having selected a predetermined number of the one or more added sub-menu  
3 items.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of  
2 program products, said sub-menu items correspond to program products of the  
3 family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational  
4 collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available  
5 program products of the family or newly available versions of the program products  
6 of the family.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the family of product products is 3D  
2 computer games, and each of the program products is a 3D computer game.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of  
2 media contents, said sub-menu items correspond to media contents of the family,  
3 and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection

4 of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available media contents  
5 of the family or newly available versions of the media contents of the family.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the family of media contents is a bulletin  
2 board of information postings, and each of media contents is an information posting.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family of  
2 documents, said sub-menu items correspond to documents of the family, and said  
3 one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of sub-  
4 menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available documents of the family  
5 or newly available versions of the documents of the family.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more sub-menu items comprise  
2 locators identifying locations from which resources to which the one or sub-menu  
3 items correspond can be retrieved.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said locations are disposed within a local  
2 file subsystem, and the method further comprises receiving said resources into said  
3 locations of said file subsystem from a selected one of said remote server or an  
4 agent of said remote server.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said resources comprise selected ones of  
2 executable, text files and web pages.

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1 14. An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions  
3 designed to implement a menu management function, when executed, enables the  
4 apparatus to  
5 receive from a remote server a distribution collection of sub-menu items  
6 for a menu item,  
7 determine whether one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution  
8 collection are not part of an operational collection of sub-menu items  
9 of the menu item,  
10 update the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item,  
11 and  
12 change an operational visual representation of the menu item from a first  
13 state to a second state to convey to a user of the client device that  
14 new sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of  
15 sub-menu items of the menu item; and  
16 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
17 programming instructions.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu management function enables  
2 said apparatus to update the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu  
3 item by adding said one or more of the sub-menu items of said distribution collection  
4 that are not part of said operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item  
5 to the operational collection of sub-menu items of the menu item.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said first state of the operational visual  
2 representation of the menu item comprises a description of the menu item, and said

3 menu management function enables said apparatus to change the operational  
4 visual representation of the menu item from the first state to the second state by  
5 changing said operational visual representation of the menu item comprising said  
6 description of the menu item to an operational visual representation of the menu  
7 item comprising said description of the menu item annotated with an indication that  
8 one or more sub-menu items have been added to the operational collection of sub-  
9 menu items of the menu item.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu management function further  
2 enables said apparatus to change said operational visual representation of the  
3 menu item from said second state back to said first state, responsive to an  
4 occurrence of a predetermined condition.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family  
2 of program products, said sub-menu items correspond to program products of the  
3 family, and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational  
4 collection of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available  
5 program products of the family or newly available versions of the program products  
6 of the family.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family  
2 of media contents, said sub-menu items correspond to media contents of the family,  
3 and said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection  
4 of sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available media contents  
5 of the family or newly available versions of the media contents of the family.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said menu item corresponds to a family  
2 of documents, said sub-menu items correspond to documents of the family, and  
3 said one or more sub-menu items that are not part of the operational collection of  
4 sub-menu items of the menu item correspond to newly available documents of the  
5 family or newly available versions of the documents of the family.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more sub-menu items comprise  
2 locators identifying locations from which resources to which the one or sub-menu  
3 items correspond can be retrieved.

1 22. A method comprising:  
2 installing a first version of a first resource on an apparatus;  
3 installing also on said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the  
4 first version of the first resource; and  
5 installing further on said apparatus an agent to facilitate subsequent installing  
6 on said apparatus a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a  
7 second version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource, and to  
8 facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item of said apparatus to  
9 which the sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second  
10 sub-menu item.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said  
2 visual representation of said menu item of said apparatus to which the sub-menu  
3 items are members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said  
4 menu item from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates

5 restoration of said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state  
6 responsive to an occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said resource is a selected one of an  
2 executable and a media content.

1 25. An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,  
3 when executed,  
4 install a first version of a first resource on said apparatus,  
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said apparatus a first sub-menu item  
6 corresponding to the first version of the first resource, and  
7 install an agent on said apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a  
8 second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second  
9 version of the first resource and a third version of a second resource,  
10 and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item  
11 of said menu hierarchy to which the sub-menu items are members, to  
12 draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu item; and  
13 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
14 programming instructions.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said  
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members  
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first  
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual

5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an  
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said resource is a selected one of an  
2 executable and a media content.

1 28. A server apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,  
3 when executed,  
4 install a first version of a first resource on a client apparatus,  
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said client apparatus a first sub-menu  
6 item corresponding to the first version of the first resource, and  
7 install an agent on said client apparatus to facilitate subsequent  
8 installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected  
9 one of a second version of the first resource and a third version of a  
10 second resource, and to facilitate modification of a visual  
11 representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the  
12 sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said  
13 second sub-menu item; and  
14 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
15 programming instructions.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said  
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members  
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first  
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual



5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an  
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said resource is a selected one of an  
2 executable and a media content.

1 31. A method comprising:  
2 installing a first version of a first game software on an apparatus;  
3 installing also on said apparatus a first sub-menu item corresponding to the  
4 first version of the first game software; and  
5 installing further on said apparatus an agent to facilitate subsequent installing  
6 on said apparatus a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a  
7 second version of the first game software and a third version of a second game  
8 software, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation of a menu item to  
9 which the sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said second  
10 sub-menu item.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said  
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members  
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first  
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual  
5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an  
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

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1 33. An apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,  
3 when executed,  
4 install a first version of a first game software on said apparatus,  
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said apparatus a first sub-menu item  
6 corresponding to the first version of the first game software, and  
7 install an agent on said apparatus to facilitate subsequent installation of a  
8 second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected one of a second  
9 version of the first game software and a third version of a second  
10 game software, and to facilitate modification of a visual representation  
11 of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the sub-menu items  
12 are members, to draw an user's attention to said second sub-menu  
13 item; and  
14 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
15 programming instructions.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said agent facilitates modification of said  
2 visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are members  
3 by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item from a first  
4 state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of said visual  
5 representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an  
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.

1 35. A server apparatus comprising:  
2 storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions,  
3 when executed,

4 install a first version of a first game software on a client apparatus,  
5 install within a menu hierarchy of said client apparatus a first sub-menu  
6 item corresponding to the first version of the first game software, and  
7 install an agent on said client apparatus to facilitate subsequent  
8 installation of a second sub-menu item corresponding to a selected  
9 one of a second version of the first game software and a third version  
10 of a second game software, and to facilitate modification of a visual  
11 representation of a menu item of said menu hierarchy to which the  
12 sub-menu items are members, to draw an user's attention to said  
13 second sub-menu item; and  
14 at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the  
15 programming instructions.

1 36. The server apparatus of claim 35, wherein said agent facilitates modification  
2 of said visual representation of said menu item to which the sub-menu items are  
3 members by facilitating modification of said visual representation of said menu item  
4 from a first state to a second state, and said agent further facilitates restoration of  
5 said visual representation of said menu item back to said first state responsive to an  
6 occurrence of a pre-determined condition.